

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A carpet underlay comprising a composite of a fibrous substrate
5 having opposite first and second planar sides, and at least one film affixed
to the first side of said substrate, said underlay impermeable to liquids and
permeable to moisture vapor.

2. The underlay of Claim 1 wherein the fibrous substrate is a
10 woven or nonwoven fabric or web selected from the group consisting of
polyester, poly(trimethylene terephthalate), polyolefin, polyamide,
synthetic fibers, natural fibers, bicomponent fibers, cellulosic fibers, wool,
cotton, acrylic, jute, and copolymers and blends thereof.

3. The underlay of Claim 2 wherein the fibrous substrate is a
15 polyester spun-laced nonwoven fabric.

4. The underlay of Claim 1 wherein the film is selected from the
group consisting of vulcanized silicone rubber, silicone polymer,
20 polyurethane, polyether ester, polyether amide, polyurethane ester,
polyurethane ether, polyvinyl alcohol, and copolymers and blends thereof.

5. The underlay of Claim 4 wherein the film is a
butylene/poly(alkylene ether) phthalate copolymer.
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6. The underlay of Claim 1 wherein the film has a first layer and
second layer, each of said layers being comprised of a different moisture
vapor permeable polymer composition.

7. The underlay of Claim 6 wherein one layer of film is a hydrophilic
30 layer and one layer of film is a hydrophobic layer.

8. The underlay of Claim 1 wherein the underlay has a minimum
moisture vapor transmission rate of 100g/m² per day.
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9. A carpet underlay comprising a composite of a fibrous substrate, an optional control layer affixed to said substrate, a tie layer affixed to said control layer or to said substrate, and a moisture vapor permeable film
5 affixed to said tie layer, said underlay impermeable to liquids and differentially permeable to moisture vapor.

10. The underlay of Claim 9 wherein the fibrous substrate is a woven or nonwoven fabric or web selected from the group consisting of
10 polyester, poly(trimethylene terephthalate), polyolefin, polyamide, synthetic fibers, natural fibers, bicomponent fibers, cellulosic fibers, wool, cotton, acrylic, jute, and copolymers and blends thereof.

11. The underlay of Claim 9 wherein the optional control layer is a
15 polymer capable of reducing the moisture vapor transmission rate of the composite, said control layer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene or a copolymer or blend thereof.

12. The underlay of Claim 9 wherein the tie layer is a copolymer of
20 ethylene co-monomer units and vinyl acetate co-monomer units.

13. The underlay of Claim 9 wherein the film is selected from the group consisting of vulcanized silicone rubber, silicone polymer, polyurethane, polyether ester, polyether amide, polyurethane ester,
25 polyurethane ether, polyvinyl alcohol, and copolymers and blends thereof.

14. A tufted pile carpet comprising:
a) a primary backing having a surface tufted with pile yarns and an underside to which a latex has been applied;
30 b) an optional secondary backing having a surface and an underside, wherein the surface of the secondary backing is adhered to the underside of the primary backing; and
c) an underlay of claim 1, 6, or 9 adjacent to or affixed to the primary or secondary backing.

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15. A carpet cushion of a material providing resiliency, support, or noise reduction having opposite first and second planar sides and having adjacent to or affixed to one of said sides an underlay of claim 1, 6, or 9.

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16. A process for rendering a carpet or a carpet cushion impermeable to liquids and permeable to moisture vapor comprising placing adjacent to or affixing to an underside of said carpet or said carpet cushion an underlay comprising a composite of a fibrous substrate and at least one film, said underlay impermeable to liquids and permeable to moisture vapor.

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17. A process for rendering a carpet or a carpet cushion impermeable to liquids and permeable to moisture vapor comprising placing adjacent to or affixing to an underside of said carpet or said carpet cushion an underlay comprising a composite of a fibrous substrate, an optional control layer affixed to said substrate, a tie layer affixed to said control layer or to said substrate, and a moisture vapor permeable film affixed to said tie layer, said underlay impermeable to liquids and differentially permeable to moisture vapor.

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18. The process of claim 16 or 17 wherein the underlay has a minimum moisture vapor transmission rate of 100g/m² per day.